

ORDINANCE NO. 573

AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 511 RELATING TO THE PROVISION AND FUNDING OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR INDEXING; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD IN BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY. This Ordinance of the City of Springfield, Florida is adopted pursuant to Section 166.021, Florida Statutes, including particularly sections 166.021(4) and 166.012(5) thereof, Section 166.041, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of law.

SECTION 2. INTERPRETATION. Unless the context indicates otherwise, words importing the singular number include the plural number, and vice versa; the terms "hereof," "hereby," "herein," "hereto," "hereunder" and similar terms refer to Ordinance No. 511, as amended as the context requires; and the term "hereafter" means after, and the term "heretofore" means before, the effective date of Ordinance No. 511, as amended as the context requires. Words of any gender include the correlative words of the other genders, unless the sense indicates otherwise.

SECTION 3. FINDINGS. It is hereby ascertained, determined, and

declared that:

(A) Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Florida Constitution, and Sections 166.021 and 166.041, Florida Statutes, the City Commission has all powers of local self-government to perform municipal functions and render municipal services except when prohibited by law and such power may be exercised by the enactment of City ordinances.

(B) The City Commission may exercise any governmental, corporate, or proprietary power for a municipal purpose except when expressly prohibited by law, and the City Commission may legislate on any subject matter on which the Florida Legislature may act, except those subjects described in (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 166.021(3), Florida Statutes. The subject matter of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 166.021(3), Florida Statutes, are not relevant to the imposition of assessments related to fire protection services, facilities or programs.

(C) Our nation has gone for over a generation without having to significantly deal with the consequences of inflation. It is reasonable and prudent to consider means to prepare for and hedge against the difficult consequences of such an economic circumstance where too many dollars are chasing too few goods and services.

(D) Waiting several years and then updating non-ad valorem assessment rates on an *ad hoc* basis can result in deferred maintenance, and the consequences of falling behind

in adequately funding labor and capital buildings and equipment for essential services like fire protection, both of which can form the necessity for property tax millage increases or a large annual non-ad valorem rate increase. It is more efficient, less expensive, and reasonable to identify and inform property owners of the use of a cognizable, independent index based upon economic data not otherwise within the City's means to effectively gather or evaluate to more evenly and fairly budget and fund costs for fire protection from year to year.

(E) Using maximum rates for non-ad valorem assessments, defined and recognized by law as those noticed by published and individually mailed notice which also inform of the base rates for future annual indexing each year thereafter, reasonably account for growth, inflation, the change in purchasing value of money, or similar purchasing or cost increase variables. Identifying and using a cognizable, independent index similar to that used by the Florida Legislature to allow for but also limit non-ad valorem assessment rate increases from year to year as within a maximum rate regime authorized by law at the time of advance and extraordinary individually mailed notice to property owners is fair, reasoned, more cost effective, and similarly provides for due process under existing general law. Annual non-ad valorem assessment rate increases within such an index also assure affected property owners that any increases in rates beyond such indexing regime or authorization will require additional individualized mailed notice to all affected property

owners of a public hearing where the indexed maximum rate may be exceeded.

(F) This amendment to Ordinance No. 511 and the provisions hereof are in intent and effect consistent with and substantially replicate other similar general law processes; and, fairly and reasonably provide for notice to affected property owners, and more cost-efficient governance and public administration by home rule while following similar processes to that authorized by general law.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE. Words underlined are added, while words ~~struck through~~ are deleted in this section.

(A) Section 2.08(B) of Ordinance No. 511, and as codified, is amended as follows:

(B) In the event the uniform method of collection provided for in the Uniform Assessment Collection Act is determined to be used, the Assessment Coordinator shall publish notice which shall conform to the requirements set forth in the Uniform Assessment Collection Act and, in addition to the requirements set forth in this Ordinance, the Assessment Coordinator shall provide notice of the proposed Assessment by first class mail to the owner of each parcel of property subject to the Assessment which shall conform to the requirements set forth in the Uniform Assessment Collection Act. Such mailed notice may be provided by including the Assessment in the Property Appraiser's notice of proposed property taxes and proposed or adopted non-ad valorem assessments under s. 200.069, Florida Statutes, or its successor in function. Such mailed notice, including any indexed maximum rate of assessment, may also be provided in advance and combined with any notice or bill associated with the traditional direct billing method of collection, or any other reasonable means of mailed notice. In such a circumstance no additional mailed notices shall be required for increases within or less than such indexed annual increases in rates so noticed previously by mail. The Assessment Coordinator may provide proof of such notices by affidavit. Failure of the owner to receive notice due to mistake or inadvertence shall nevertheless not affect the validity of the

Assessment Roll nor release or discharge any obligation for payment of an Assessment imposed by the City Commission pursuant to this Ordinance.

(B) Section 2.08 (D), (E), (F) and (G) of Ordinance No. 511, and as codified, is modified and amended as follows:

(D) Nothing herein shall preclude the City Council from establishing by resolution a maximum rate of assessment provided that notice of such maximum assessment rate is provided pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act. In the event that the uniform method of collection provided for in the Uniform Assessment Collection Act is used and (1) the proposed Assessment for any Fiscal Year exceeds the maximum rate of assessment adopted by the City Council and included in notice previously provided to the owners of Assessed Property by law and pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act, or, (2) the method of apportionment is changed or the purpose for which the Assessment is imposed is substantially changed from that represented by notice previously provided to the owners of Assessed Property pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act, ~~(3) Assessed Property is reclassified in a manner which results in an increased Assessment from that represented by notice previously provided to the owners of Assessed Property pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act, or (4) an Assessment Roll contains Assessed Property that was not included on the Assessment Roll approved for the prior Fiscal Year,~~ notice and opportunity to be heard shall be provided to the owners of such Assessed Property. Such notice shall substantially conform to the notice requirements set forth in the Uniform Assessment Collection Act and inform the owner of the time, date and place for adoption of the Annual Assessment Resolution. The failure of the owner to receive such notice due to mistake or inadvertence shall not affect the validity of the Assessment Roll nor release or discharge any obligation for payment of an Assessment imposed by the City Council pursuant to this Ordinance.

(E) Without additional individual notice the maximum rate of assessment established by resolution may include and be expressed by a cognizable independent indexing feature or reference as the maximum annual increase from year to year, and shall be deemed the maximum rate of

assessment authorized herein by law at the time of the initial imposition or subsequent mailed notice advising of use of an indexing feature concerning the Assessment for a future Fiscal Year.

(F) No subsequent additional individual notice shall be required or necessary where the method of apportionment at the time of initial imposition or subsequent mailed notice remains unchanged and was otherwise previously noticed where the attributes of any individual tax parcel may change from year to year. Provided, however, implementation of any annual increases in accord with any established maximum rate of assessment shall be noticed by publication in conformance with Section 2.04 hereof.

(G) The Assessment Roll, as approved by the Annual Assessment Resolution, shall be certified and delivered to the Tax Collector as required by the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

(C) Except as modified and amended hereby, Ordinance No. 511 shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. APPLICABILITY. Ordinance No. 511, as amended, and the City's authority to impose assessments pursuant hereto shall be applicable throughout the City.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of Ordinance No. 511, as amended, are severable; and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provision is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. ALTERNATIVE METHOD. This amendment to Ordinance No. 511 shall be deemed to provide an additional and alternative method for the doing of the things authorized hereby and shall be regarded as supplemental and additional to powers conferred by other laws, and shall not be regarded as in derogation of any powers now existing or which may hereafter come into existence. This amendment, being necessary for the welfare of the inhabitants of the City, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes hereof.

SECTION 8. REPEALER. All ordinances, resolution or parts thereof, including but not limited to Chapter 27900, Laws of Florida (1951), as amended (which became a City ordinance pursuant to and upon enactment of Section 166.021(5), Florida Statutes), which are inconsistent or in conflict herewith are hereby confirmed repealed and of no further force and effect.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

SECTION 9.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

This amendment to

Ordinance No. 511, as amended, shall be in force and take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption by the City Commission.

CITY COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA



By: Ralph Hammond
Ralph Hammond, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Cox
Teresa Cox, City Clerk

PASSED on First Reading Aug. 2, 2021
NOTICE Published on Aug. 17, 2021
Passed on Second and Final Reading Sept. 7, 2021

Approved as to form for the Reliance
of the City of Springfield Only:

Kevin Obos
Kevin Obos, City Attorney

VOTE OF CITY COMMISSION

DENNIS HADDOCK yes
Phillip Dykes yes
JACK KENNINGTON yes
TOPEKA HUMPHRIES yes

From: Mark G. Lawson, Mark G. Lawson, P.A.

To: Mayor and City Attorney

Date: July 19, 2021

Re: TRIM and Annual Adoption of Springfield Fire Service Non-ad Valorem Assessments for Coming Fiscal Year 2021-22; Implementation Overview and Time Frame.

This is a brief overview to provide a roadmap and time frame for the City's non-ad valorem special assessment program which was validated by the circuit court in 2013.

We have successfully submitted the information to the property appraiser for TRIM as directed. Many people do not realize that the process for using TRIM (s. 200.069, Fla. Stat.) to notify property owners about *non-ad valorem assessments* is optional (for both a municipality AND the local property appraiser). One dilemma is that to do so a municipality must get the non-ad valorem assessment roll done very early. This year the local property appraiser deadline was even earlier than in the past.

The proposed rates used per tax parcel are as directed: Tier 1 at \$0.76 per \$1,000 of relative improvement value, Tier 2 at \$125.00 per tax parcel, using a \$7.00 charge per tax parcel to defray City program administration costs, plus uniform collection costs and adjustments for statutory discounts associated with the uniform method of collection (on the same annual bill or tax notice for property taxes sent by the local tax collector). The final decision on adopting this non-ad valorem assessment roll cannot be made by the City Commission until after a public hearing scheduled for Sept. 7 at 5:30 P.M.

Your action early this month was certainly timely. As soon as we became aware of the earlier deadline for TRIM from the property appraiser; and, your decision to address the fact that no increases had occurred for over 8 years: all involved have acted smartly to get the proposed assessment roll ready. Thanks to everyone involved in that regard.

Next, in consultation with the City Attorney, we have prepared this critical events roadmap to implement as efficiently as possible your program update. This is a mixed bag of process, statutory compliance, timing and informing the Commission and the public all which must be done in a relatively short time frame.

Here is a Recap and 60-day Roadmap for Implementation:

Your change in rates will require an individually mailed notice in addition to the TRIM notice. We will use a national printer to do this without upcharge under our evergreen work order to the City. That cost (including postage) is approximately \$4,000 and will need to be paid directly by the City to the printer in advance upon your approval of the proof. We will prepare the

form of notice in consultation with the City Attorney and Ennead. Each mailer will show or itemize all of the charges for this year, explain what is required by statute and inform of how the City expects to proceed in out years. This needs to be done promptly as working with a merge, print, stuff, and mail notice takes lead time.

As well, a minor modification in your Ordinance will be necessary to allow for future indexing, and the notices the City already has to use this year for mailing and publishing can likely accomplish that second aspect and save the cost of another mailing in the future. The change in Ordinance should be considered at first reading at your August meeting.

From a timing perspective, the TRIM info has now been transmitted to the property appraiser's designated consultant. The date when it gets mailed is governed by the property appraiser who coordinates the TRIM countywide; we expect the property appraiser will mail the TRIM notices sometime during August. Again, inclusion on the TRIM mailing is not a requirement relative to the non-ad valorem assessments. So, we are working to comply with the additionally required mailed notice from the City by having the City's required publication (for both this year's assessment and the recommended Ordinance modification) and the required mailed notice from the City occur sometime between August 11 and 17. Prior to that time we will assist the City with text for the City's webpage to further explain the updates and changes which will be designed to answer most reasonable questions by just going to the City's webpage. As well, the webpage will have the quick search feature link to check the proposed Fire Service Assessment roll for FY 2021-22 by (1) County tax parcel identification number, (2) property location address, and (3) name of property owner. This quick search feature is not required, but is helpful, extraordinary and essentially available worldwide via the internet. The quick search feature also serves as the preliminary non-ad valorem assessment roll, which is required to be available for inspection; so, folks are able to conveniently check the same info on-line via a computer in the City Clerk's office or by their own computer or smart phone. The TRIM notice, the City's published notice, and the City's individually mailed notice all will recommend the reader visit the City's webpage link for more information.

Before the September hearing, an annual update letter or report will be prepared and provided to assist the Commission factually. At the September hearing staff and counsel will make a brief presentation, and the public will be able to provide input and be heard by the Commission (this process will also allow for folks to conveniently email their input for the public hearing in advance). Once the public hearing is concluded, the City Commission can then deliberate and address the proposed modification to the Ordinance, and then the annual assessment resolution. Whatever action taken by annual resolution; it will obviously drive the City's overall budget process accordingly.

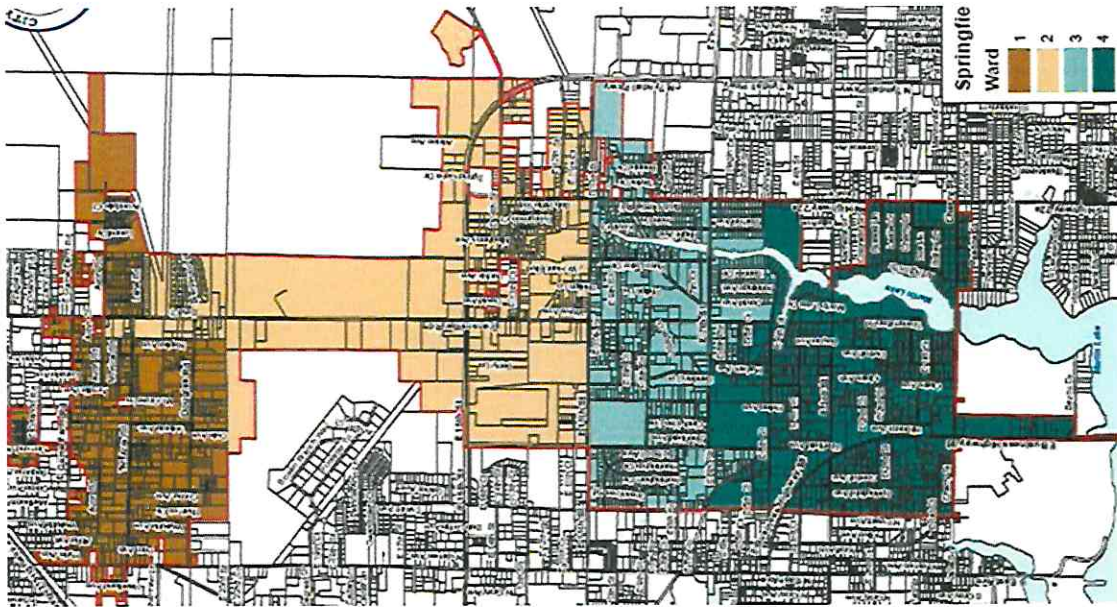
After the public hearing, Ennead will update the assessment rolls as directed by the City Commission, assist the City and timely help to certify the roll to the tax collector per your ordinance, resolution, general law and applicable administrative code provisions by the mid-September statutory deadline. City staff will then also finalize City's general budget accordingly.

This entire time frame meets both the request of the property appraiser to provide TRIM info in early July, and provides better certainty to the City generally (and its staff and Commission) needed to finalize the City's general budget by mid-September – so the City Commission and public know how the non-ad valorem revenues will impact the overall Fiscal Year budget for 2021-22.

Brief Explanation of Ordinance Modification

To save resources, time, and future costs of mailing, and to update the City's assessment program as previously requested by and recommended to the City, we have worked with the City Attorney develop the approach to modifying the current Ordinance to include an indexing provision. This concept was not used in 2013, but developed subsequently to allow for inflation and increasing costs. No indexing will occur for upcoming FY 2021-22, but the notices for this year will make all aware of the prospect and in the future be compliant with prior mailed notice requirements. This indexing approach has been used by the Legislature, and its use addressed by the local circuit court as lawful for other municipalities in Bay County with regard to fire assessments. This modification will certainly help the City from having to wait several years to realize the rates need to be adjusted, and instead allow for smaller, index limited incremental increases when warranted. No indexing will occur this coming fiscal year, but the processes described above for notice can quite efficiently be put in place simultaneously with this year's assessment changes.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL HEARING
TO IMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF
NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS
TO FUND IN PART THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
THE CONTINUAL READINESS TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION**



The property subject to assessment lies within the City of Springfield, Florida.

For several years the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida (the "City"), has adopted a special or non-ad valorem assessment to defray a portion of the annual operating and capital costs associated with the Springfield Fire Department. The City Commission's goal was to put in place a supplemental and alternative means to deal with previous budget shortfalls and work to achieve financial sustainability, so that the rates of assessment for benefited parcels might supplementally, and more equitably and efficiently fund our City's annual budget and service mission. City policies, practices, the annual fire department budget, the overall budget for the City, and other conditions in making these fire protection services and facilities constantly available within our community continue to test our fiscal stewardship. These rates have not changed since 2013. The cost of the provision of fire services, facilities, and improvements has increased, so next year the special non-ad-valorem assessment against property located within the City limits are proposed to increase by about \$40 per parcel. The remainder of the fire protection budget can then be funded with other legally available revenues (most of which are limited ad valorem property taxes) and other very limited revenues of the City. This is a challenging balancing process this community must address annually. *Please read further.*

The special assessments for each parcel of property will be based on the same benefits or burdens analysis as in past years which is associated with the availability of fire protection

constantly made available every day to all tax parcels. The City will continue to use the same two-tier rate structure as last year, which was the subject of judicial approval prior to the initial bill for collection being sent in 2013. Tier 1 is based on the relative improvements value associated with each tax parcel (no land value is generally used in this calculation) focused on variable and possibly some fixed costs. Tier 2 is a fixed rate per tax parcel focused on more fixed costs. This annual approach has proven to be a good overall success for our City.

On September 7, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. the City Commission will hold a public hearing at City Hall, 408 School Avenue, Springfield, Florida, 32401, for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed annual assessments which by general law will be collected by the County tax collector pursuant to the tax bill collection method authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. You are invited to appear at the public hearing, and/or to file written objections with the City Clerk and addressed to the City Commission at the above address. If you decide to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. *If you wish to learn more, a more detailed description of the assessment program is available on the City's website.*

Each parcel of property assigned an identification number by the County property appraiser is considered one (1) tax parcel. If approved by the City Commission after the hearing, the rate of assessment for each tax parcel is proposed to be the sum of \$0.76 per \$1,000 of the value of improvements attributed to the tax parcel by the County property appraiser (Tier 1), plus \$125.00 per tax parcel (Tier 2), together with (i) a \$7.00 charge to defray City administration and program costs and (ii) statutory charges by the tax collector/property appraiser (estimated as approximately 2% each), plus (iii) adjustment (4%) to account for early payment statutory discounts involved with the uniform method of collection. The dollar amount and other information concerning the proposed non-ad valorem assessment attributable to each tax parcel in the City is also available online at <https://www.springfieldfl.net> and at <http://quicksearch.ennead-data.com/springfield> or by computer terminal upon inquiry at the offices of the City Clerk, at City Hall. The total proposed revenue to be collected by the City, exclusive of the nominal amounts and adjustments described in (i), (ii), and (iii) above, is estimated to be \$582,449 for upcoming Fiscal Year 2021-22.

To provide further extraordinary notice, the City has provided the proposed sum total of the assessment to the Bay County Property Appraiser to be shown in your TRIM notice in the manner provided by section 200.069, Florida Statutes.

Payment is anticipated to be due and collected on the same bill as taxes to be mailed around November 1, 2021. This tax bill collection method is sometimes called the uniform method of collection. As a courtesy reminder, please be reminded that until paid, the fire assessment will constitute a lien against assessed property equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district, or municipal taxes and other non-ad valorem assessments.

Assessments become delinquent in the same manner as for unpaid taxes, and failure to pay the upcoming assessment and your property taxes will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in loss of title. *Please read further.*

Using maximum rates and indexing will better serve our City. In the future, increases of rates in this Notice may be indexed and limited to the previous 5 years' Florida personal income average annual growth rate unless further mailed notice is provided. The foregoing informs of the maximum rate of assessment. The City is using this notice to inform of maximum rates used for this non-ad valorem assessment. The updated maximum rates are those shown in this notice for FY 2021-22. These updated maximum rates inform of the base for future annual indexing to account for growth, inflation, the change in purchasing value of money, or similar purchasing or cost increase variables, and may only be increased from year to year in an amount not to exceed the average annual growth rate in Florida personal income over the previous 5 years, or similar successor index. Annual fire assessment rate increases within this personal income threshold will be deemed to be within the maximum rate authorized by law at the time of the imposition of this non-ad valorem assessment for FY 2021-22. Any increases in rates beyond such index authorization will require additional individual mailed notice to all affected property owners. Further, the City Commission will declare and publish the indexing information each year as a part of its annual notice procedures for adoption of the annual fire assessment. This is the same general law index feature and process used by independent fire control districts in this State. The actual initial rates of the fire assessment for FY 2021-22 will not exceed those shown in this notice and will be fixed by resolution of the City Commission after the public hearing. *Reading this notice and explanation to learn more about how the City pays and collects for its services – and how it uses your financial support as a property owner – is certainly appreciated.*

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING AT (850) 872-7570.

**PUBLISH ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17, 2021
AT THE DIRECTION OF THE CITY CLERK, CITY OF SPRINGFIELD**

City of Springfield
408 School Ave.
Springfield, FL

NOTICE OF HEARING TO SET RATES FOR
ANNUAL FIRE SERVICE
NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS
Mailed by or before: August 17, 2021

**** NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER ****

Tax Parcel ID: «PID»
Folio: «Folio»
Location: «Whereever»
Sequence No. «Seq»

«OwnerName»
«OwnerAdd1»
«OwnerAdd2»
«OwnerAdd3»
«City» «State» «Zip» «Country»

Greetings. By general law this mailed notice is given by the City Commission of Springfield (the "City").

Background. Since 2013 the City Commission has adopted a special assessment to defray a portion of the annual operating and capital costs associated with the Springfield Fire Department. These rates have not changed since 2013. The cost of the provision of fire services, facilities, and improvements has increased, so next year this non-ad-valorem assessment imposed on your property located within the City limits will increase by about \$40 per parcel (on an annual basis). The remainder of the fire protection budget will then be funded with other legally available revenues (most of which are limited ad valorem property taxes) and other very limited revenues of the City. This is a challenging balancing process this community must address annually. **Please read further.**

The special assessments for each parcel of property will be based on the same benefits or burdens analysis as in past years which is associated with the availability of fire protection constantly made available every day to all tax parcels. The City will continue to use the same two-tier rate structure, which was the subject of judicial approval prior to the initial bill for collection being sent in 2013. Tier 1 is based on the relative improvements value associated with each tax parcel (no land value is generally used in this calculation) focused on variable and possibly some fixed costs. Tier 2 is a fixed rate per tax parcel focused on more fixed costs. This annual approach has proven to be a good overall success for our City.

On September 7, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. the City Commission will hold a public hearing at City Hall, 408 School Avenue, Springfield, Florida, 32401, for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed annual assessments which by general law will be collected by the County tax collector pursuant to the tax bill collection method authorized by Sections 197.3632 and 197.3635, Florida Statutes. You are invited to appear at the public hearing, and/or to file written objections with the City Clerk and addressed to the City Commission at the above address. If you decide to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made.

PROPOSED ANNUAL FIRE SERVICE NON-AD VALOREM ASSEMENT

Category	Rates, Number and Type of Billing Units	FY 2021 Annual Assessment
(1) Tier 1 (more variable rate)	\$0.76/\$1000 of relative improvement value (not land) =	\$«T1»
(2) Tier 2 (more fixed rate)	«number» parcel(s) x \$125.00 per parcel =	\$«T2»
Sub-Total	of (1) plus (2) above =	\$«T1+T2»

Added to the Sub-Total for this parcel will be: (i) \$7 per tax notice to defray City notice, administrative and implementation costs; (ii) statutory charges by the tax collector/property appraiser (not exceeding 2% each); plus (iii) adjustment (4%) to account for early-payment statutory discounts involved with the uniform method of collection. In the future, increases of rates in this Notice may be indexed and limited to the previous 5 years' Florida personal income average annual growth rate unless further mailed notice is provided. The forgoing informs of the maximum rate of assessment. The total proposed revenue to be collected by the City, exclusive of nominal amounts and adjustments described in (i), (ii), and (iii) above, is estimated at \$582,449 for upcoming Fiscal Year 2021-22.

This is a notice – not a bill. The proposed assessment amounts addressed on this notice will be collected by the Bay County Tax Collector on the same tax notice for property taxes mailed in November. This is called the uniform method of collection. The City must remind you that failure to pay your taxes and assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title. **Please review the reverse side of this notice. Thank you for your fiscal support of your City.**

***** THIS IS NOT A BILL *****

Purpose and Authority. The purpose of the City's fire assessment is to fund a large portion of the annual costs of availability for the City's constant level of service for fire protection, associated programs, support services, equipment, facilities, and capital. A better funded fire department enables the City to correspondingly maintain better ISO rating which has a positive impact on insurance ratings for all properties in our community. The authority to undertake, impose, levy and collect this funding rests in the City charter, general law, the Florida Constitution, and other applicable law. Such activity was also validated by the Circuit Court in 2013.

Maximum Rates and Indexing. The City is using this notice to inform of maximum rates used for this non-ad valorem assessment. The updated maximum rates are those shown on the forgoing side of this notice. These updated maximum rates inform of the base for future annual indexing to account for growth, inflation, the change in purchasing value of money, or similar purchasing or cost increase variables, and may only be increased from year to year in an amount not to exceed the average annual growth rate in Florida personal income over the previous 5 years, or similar successor index. Annual fire assessment rate increases within this personal income threshold will be deemed to be within the maximum rate authorized by law at the time of the imposition of this non-ad valorem assessment for FY2021-22. Any increases in rates beyond such index authorization will require additional individual mailed notice to all affected property owners. Further, the City Commission will declare and publish the indexing information each year as a part of its annual notice procedures for adoption of the annual fire assessment. This is the same general law index feature and process used by independent fire control districts in this State. The actual rates of the fire assessment for FY 2021-22 will not exceed those shown on the foregoing side of this notice and will be fixed by resolution of the City Commission after the public hearing. Indexing will begin for FY 2022-23.

An Interactive Search Engine is Online; and TRIM. The City's website provides a link to an interactive search engine (where you can look up all proposed fire assessments by owner name, parcel location, or tax parcel number). This search engine may also be viewed at the City Clerk's office. To provide further extraordinary notice, the City has provided the proposed sum total of the assessment to the Bay County Property Appraiser to be shown in your TRIM notice in the manner provided by section 200.069, Florida Statutes.

General Process and Procedure for the Public Hearing. On September 7, 2021, at the City Commission meeting, the noticed public hearing concerning the fire assessment will be opened to allow for evidence, testimony, comments and objections from affected property owners and other interested persons as to the advisability of the imposition and levy of the proposed fire assessments to fund only a part of the FY2021-22 budget and future indexing. The Mayor or a designee will moderate. All persons that wish to speak may advise the moderator of the desire to address the Commission, and each in turn will be provided the opportunity to be heard. Kindly be respectful and succinct. If you agree with a prior speaker or point, simply indicate that—your abbreviated comment will be given all similar appropriate weight. When those who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so, the aspect of listening to comments and objections from property owners and interested persons will end; the Commission will deliberate and determine whether to levy the non-ad valorem assessments, adjusting assessments as may be warranted by information received at or prior to the hearing, or take any other action allowed by law.

Please check the City's website to see if a decision or opportunity to allow for the public hearing to be conducted by electronic, telephonic, or virtual means -- and not by in-person attendance -- will be employed. If warranted, in the event of a local or national emergency, a hurricane, or any other interfering circumstance, the meeting may be continued to a time, date, and place certain, and notice thereof will be posted on the City's website: <https://www.springfieldfl.net>

To be sure your evidence, testimony, comments, or objections are considered and heard, please email any such evidence, comments, or objections to the City Commission at FireNAV21@springfieldfl.net by September 3, 2021, so your input can be received and shared with the City Commissioners in advance. Information sent in advance will be shared with the Commissioners, given equal weight to that spoken or shared in person at the hearing, and the Commissioners and City staff will individually be able to better review your comments and objections prior to the hearing date as they prepare.

There are roughly 4,000 property owners and even more concerned residents in the City. Your kind, good-natured and cooperative conduct is appreciated, and allows for all to be heard in an orderly fashion. The fundamental decision on how to substantially fund this part of the City's budget for FY 2021-22 can be made after this public hearing by the Commission. The most straightforward summary of choices presented to the City Commission are: (1) adopt the fire assessment as proposed; (2) raise the mileage rate for property taxes more than otherwise needed to cover other shortfalls; (3) cut services and capital expenditures. These are not mutually exclusive. Unquestionably, our City, its residents, property owners and our City Commission are faced with very difficult fiscal choices which will have short-term and lasting future consequences. After the public hearing is closed, the City Commission will consider comments, objections, and all other information, and may determine the various actions necessary to fund our City's budget. The City Commission can also then consider and adopt necessary procedural or implementing ordinances, resolutions, and other directions. **Thank-you kindly for your review.**

Need Assistance? Any person requiring a special accommodation at this meeting due to disability or physical impairment and needs for an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk at 850-872-7570 ext. 113 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service numbers for assistance are (800) 955-8771 (tdd) or (800) 955-8770 (voice).

LOCALiQ

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PROOF OF PUBLICATION

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Panama City FL 32401

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF BAY

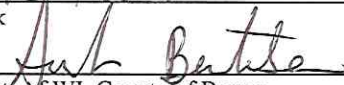
The Panama City News Herald, a newspaper printed and published in the city of Panama City, and of general circulation in the County of Bay, State of Florida, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

08/17/2021

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 08/17/2021



Legal Clerk



Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

7/27/25

My commission expires

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THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!

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SARAH BERTELSEN
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following entitled ordinance shall be presented to the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida, for a public hearing and final adoption at a regular meeting to be conducted at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at the Springfield City Hall, located at 408 School Avenue, Springfield, Florida, to-wit,

ORDINANCE NO. 573
AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 511 RELATING TO THE PROVISION AND FUNDING OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR INDEXING; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, if an appeal is available, such person will need a record of the proceeding, and such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any person requiring a special accommodation to participate in this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact Teresa Cox at 408 School Avenue, Springfield, Florida 32401 or by phone at (850) 872-7570 at least five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, and you possess TDD equipment, you may contact the City Clerk using the Florida Dual Party Relay system which can be reached at (800) 955-8770 (Voice) or (800) 955-8771 (TDD).

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS desiring to be heard on the adoption of the aforesaid ordinances are invited to be present at the meeting. Copies of the ordinances may be obtained or inspected at the office of the City Clerk, Springfield, Florida, at the City Hall.
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FL
8/17/2021
6147226